

Progressive Breeders' Registry and Progressive Genetics Herd Awards

Recognizing herds nationwide with both phenotypic and genetically elite cattle

In a past article we looked at some long-running awards that the Holstein Association USA presents to outstanding individual cows, and now we will look at two of the herd-based awards that have been issued for many years. The Progressive Breeders' Registry (PBR) is given to the top herds that excel at maintaining a balance of production and type performance, with a high percentage of homebred females. The Progressive Genetics Herd Award (PGHA) is presented to herds with high genetic values, measured by average CTPI.

Progressive Breeders' Registry: Outstanding Type and Production with Homebred Cattle

The Progressive Breeders' Registry recognition traces its origin back to the 1930's. It was first given in 1937 at the state level in four western states, and was quickly adopted by the Holstein Association as a nationwide award two years later. The PBR was designed to promote interest in both the Holstein Association classification program and production testing. These methods of gathering information on female performance were essential for continued breed improvement and the PBR award sought to determine herds that excelled in both of these areas. Only nine herds were recognized in the first award year and the PBR award has continued to have high standards and recognize a small number of the most elite herds.

To be eligible for the PBR award, a herd needs to be a member of both the national and state associations, must be enrolled in the Premier or Deluxe levels of TriStarSM, and participate in either a Classic or Standard classification program (options which include BAA calculations). The herd's BAA must be in the top 25 percent of herds classified in the 18 months prior to March 1 of the award year. Herds must have at least 20 cows with an RHA of 87 percent or higher and 75 percent of the herd must be homebred.

TriStar 305-Day Mature Equivalent (ME) Lactation averages are used to determine the production portion of the award. The production cutoff is based on the ME for combined fat and protein. Herd averages are adjusted based on the ME herd averages for their state, making the cutoff level higher for herds in high production states and lower for herds in low production states. This adjustment compensates for regional differences in milk production levels.

All eligible herds are evaluated automatically every year. Approximately 10 percent of the herds in the Premier or Deluxe options of TriStar are designated as PBR winners; in 2012, 232 herds were awarded this recognition. Impressively, two herds have qualified for over 50 years; Robthom Holsteins in Missouri has received the honor 57 years, and Walhowdon Farm of New Hampshire has 53 years of PBR designation. Seventeen herds received the award for their first time in 2012.

Progressive Genetics Herd Award: Top 500 CTPI Herds in the Nation

The Progressive Genetics Herd Award was first awarded in 1991 to identify herds with a high level of genetic value in the herd based on average CTPI and PTPI. The PGHA has continued for the last 22 years, promoting the focus on high TPI values which lead toward continued breed progress.



BY DAREN SHEFFIELD

The PGHA enrollment requirements are similar to the PBR award. Herds must be state and national association members, be enrolled in Premier or Deluxe TriStar, and participate in the classification program. The herd must have at least 20 cows with RHA of 87 percent or higher and CTPI values. There is no requirement on the number of youngstock, but the PTPI of the herd's youngstock is included in the award calculation. The average TPI value for the mature cows and heifers is determined using DHI inventories, used for the creation of the Genetic Herd Reports, and the youngstock registered in the herds' associated accounts.

The award is presented to the top 500 herds for average TPI, and all eligible herds are evaluated automatically. The cutoff for the top 500 herds in 2012 was a TPI value of 1586. Thirty-six herds have received the award all 22 years it has been given: Floyd & Lloyd Baumann & Fred Lang, WI; Bomaz, Inc., WI; R. Paul Buhr, Jr., WI; Conant Acres, Inc., ME; De Su Holsteins LLC, IA; End Road Farm, MI; Brian & Wendy Fust, WI; Rick & Kris Garvey, WI; Jeff Henschel, WI; Steven G. Holte, WI; Gary L. Housner, WI; Jaloda Farms, OH; Chuck Jenkins, WI; Jo-Wal Farms, WI; Randy W. Kortus, WA; Roger & David Latuch, PA; Larry Lexvold, MN; Lirr Farm, WI; Jason M. & Donna G. Myers, MD; Nordic-Haven Holsteins, IA; Gaylon, Gary & Steve Obert, IL; Olmar Farms, MN; Mark P. Paul, WI; Regancrest Farm, IA; Darrell Richard, IN; Alfred & Mark Schmitt, MN; Scott Seward, WI; Springhill, OH; Stelling Farms, Inc., MN; Sully Hill Dairy Co., MN; Triple T Dairy, TN; Earnest Turk, GA; Veazland Farms, ME; Walhowdon Farm, Inc., NH; Wardin Bros., MI; and Welcome Stock Farm, LLC, NY. Forty-two herds received the PGH award for the first time in 2012.

View All Honorees Online!

Lists of award winners of the PBR and PGH are available at www.holsteinusa.com for both the current and past years, by clicking on Awards, then Herds. These awards are presented to herds who best exemplify outstanding performance for both type and production along with genetic excellence, and to recognize herd owners that are instrumental to the continuing improvement of the Holstein breed.